

Presentation on the Task Force that Reviewed State Solid Waste Management Policy



To the:

Blue Ribbon Commission on Solid
Waste Management
August 1, 2006

Presented by:

Sue Inches
Deputy Director
Maine State Planning Office

Prepared by: Maine State Planning Office
Waste Management & Recycling Program

Overview

- TF Meets Every 5 Years
- Reviews Solid Waste Policy
- Reports Findings and Recommendations to the Gov. and the NR Committee

Task Force Membership & Meetings

32 Members:

- ❖ municipal officials;
- ❖ host community officials;
- ❖ public and private sector solid waste processing, disposal and management representatives;
- ❖ local and environmental group representatives;
- ❖ regional planning association staff;
- ❖ various state association representatives;
- ❖ state officials.



Facilitation Team

Sue Inches, SPO

Jody Harris, SPO

Jeff Edelstein, Facilitator

Ona Ferguson, Facilitator

George MacDonald, SPO

Sam Morris, SPO



Task Force Process

Task Force members were asked:

How do current policies affect you?

How have they worked?

How have they not worked?

What might work better?

The Task Force was not asked to:

Find consensus on issues

Analyze data and make recommendations

Agree on policy changes



Task Force Process

- 30 Individual interviews conducted to identify issues
- 3 Full day meetings
- Draft report prepared by SPO
- ½ Day TF meeting to gather feedback on report

Three Major Concerns Identified by the TF:

1. How to increase the statewide recycling rate
2. Overall available disposal capacity in Maine, particularly rate of land use
3. Movement of waste across state borders



Recommendations

1. Affirm Existing State Policies
2. Policy Recommendations
3. Research and Data Collection Recommendations
4. Programmatic Recommendations



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Affirm Existing State Policies

- Maintain the Solid Waste Management Hierarchy
- Maintain the 50% Recycling Goal
- Keep the Ban on New Commercial Disposal Facilities
- Continue State Responsibility for Siting Disposal Facilities
- Preserve Existing Municipal Responsibility for Managing Solid Waste
- Continue to Support Regional Approaches to Recycling



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Policy Recommendations

“Ongoing Review of Solid Waste Policy in Maine”

Establish a solid waste advisory council meeting annually to replace the current solid waste task force. Update the waste generation and disposal capacity report annually.

“Move Beyond 50% Recycling”

Add a legislative policy statement that favors waste reduction and maximizing waste diversion by encouraging new and expanded uses of solid waste as a resource.

“Lengthen the Trigger”

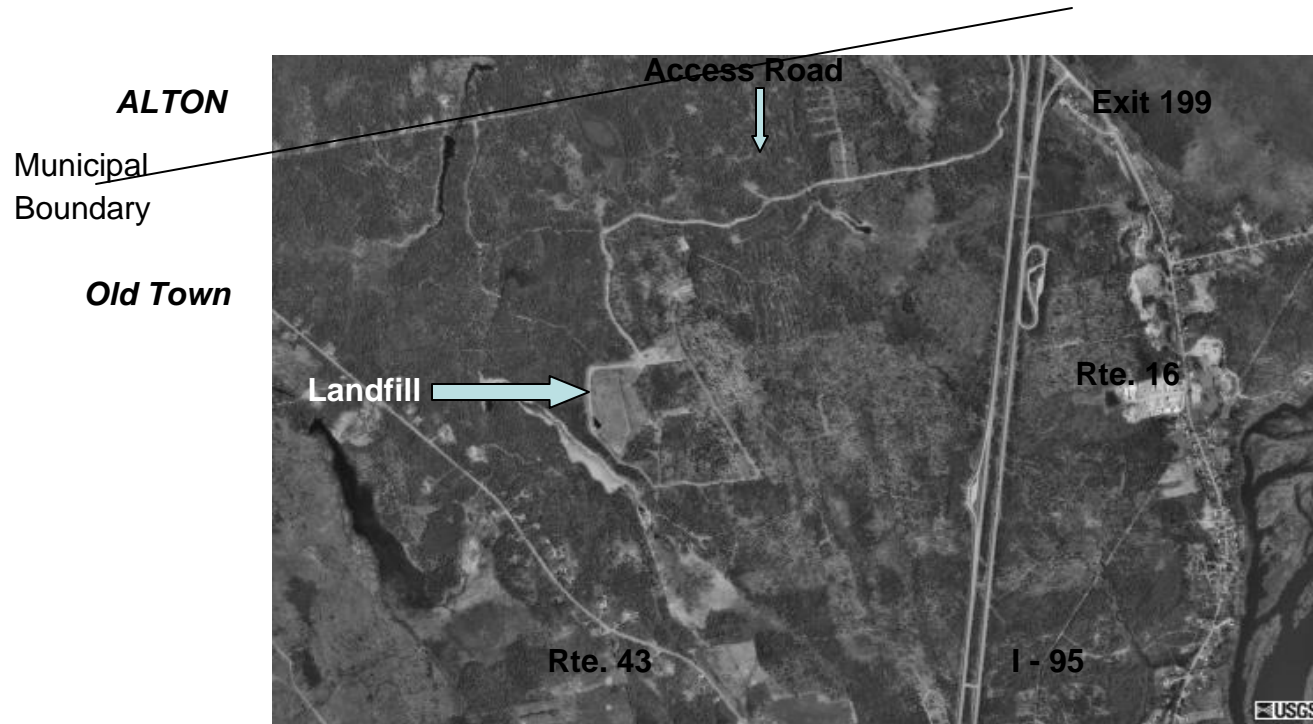
Lengthen from four to six years the ‘trigger’ for the office to alert the Legislature of the need to develop state-owned disposal capacity.



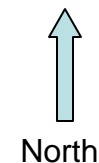
Policy Recommendations (cont.)

“Revisit Host Community Benefits”

Revisit host community benefits to establish a clear and balanced process for negotiating host community benefits. Develop a protocol for the review of community benefit agreements during their lifespan.



Aerial photo of West Old Town, Alton and the Juniper Ridge.



Research and Data Collection Recommendations

Quantitative and qualitative analysis:

- Social, environmental and financial costs of maintaining the current system

- Social, environmental and financial costs of making changes to the current system



Research and Data Collection Recommendations (cont.)

Reuse Construction and Demolition Debris

Explore and analyze options for reusing Maine-generated construction and demolition debris as a resource, including examining what other states have done.



Research and Data Collection Recommendations (cont.)

*Broaden the **State's Disposal Capacity Analysis** by:*

- Covering a 25-year time horizon
- identifying and assessing regional capacity issues
- assessing volume as well as tonnage
- assessing stability and life expectancy of existing facilities
- assessing the amount and type of imported and exported waste, how it is being used, and where it is going
- developing a protocol for responding to natural disasters
- assessing impact of recycling on disposal capacity
- analyzing recycling and processing capacity.



Research and Data Collection Recommendations (cont.)

Analyze state recycling grant programs and develop a proposal for future funding.



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Programmatic Recommendation

Fund Public Recycling Education:

Develop funding proposals for an on-going public education and outreach campaign.



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Next Steps

SPO has already begun implementing the recommendations. The thoughts and ideas of the Task Force will also be used in the updating of the Solid Waste Management & Recycling Plan this year.



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Existing State Solid Waste Policy

In 1989, the Legislature adopted a publicly-managed solid waste system that includes:

- Declaration of a solid waste management hierarchy: reduce, reuse recycle
- A statewide goal to recycle 50% of municipal solid waste
- State assistance for municipal recycling programs
- Separation of planning, policy development, and municipal technical assistance from regulatory functions
- A ban on new commercial solid waste disposal facilities
- State responsibility for siting and operating new solid waste disposal facilities
- Reinforcement of municipal responsibility for managing solid waste



Trends and Changes Since 1989

- Continuing growth in the amount of waste generated by residents and businesses
- A growing concern over toxics contained in household products
- A growing public awareness of environmental impacts of solid waste facilities, including air and water quality, truck traffic, and aesthetic issues including visual impacts, noise and odors
- Increased difficulty in siting solid waste facilities
- Rising costs and increasing expertise needed to operate disposal facilities
- Increasing fuel costs
- The state's acquisition and operation of Juniper Ridge Landfill
- An increase in imported solid waste and bypass waste
- Participating in recycling programs maximized (within current funding and methods)



Our Opportunity

To ask the big questions

To make a real and positive difference



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